

Field Crops

PRECIPITATION

Water year (October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999) for the Utah growing season was 109 percent of normal for the state with the districts ranging from 94 percent of normal to 156 percent of normal.

PRINCIPAL CROPS

Utah farmers planted 1.1 million acres to principal crops in 1999, down 2.2 percent from 1998. Harvested acres were 1.0 million acres, 1.5 percent less than 1998. Preliminary total value of principal crops was \$252.4 million compared with \$287.4 million in 1998.

SMALL GRAINS

All wheat production, at 8.9 million bushels, was up 1.2 percent from 1998. Average price received by producers was \$2.55 per bushel, 39 cents lower than 1998 and 77 cents below 1997. The value of the crop, at \$23.2 million, was 9.9 percent below 1998 and 20 percent below 1997. Average yield of 52.6 bushels per acre was 1.5 bushels above 1998's yield. Acres harvested was 170,000, down 3,000 acres from 1998.

Winter wheat production of 7.5 million bushels was up slightly from the 1998 level. The average price of \$2.50 per bushel was 45 cents below 1998. Value of production fell 15 percent to \$18.9 million. Winter wheat yield, at 52 bushels per acre, was 2 bushels above 1998. Harvested acreage of 145,000 acres was 5,000 acres less than 1998. **Acreage seeded** for 2000 harvest is forecast at 150,000 acres, the same as last year. **Other spring wheat** production of 1.4 million bushels was 4.9 percent above the previous year. The average price of \$3.10 per bushel was up 40 cents from 1998. Value of production, at \$4.3 million, was up 20 percent from the 1998 level. Yield of 56 bushels per acre was 2 bushels below last year. Harvested acreage of 25,000 acres was up 8.7 percent from 1998.

Barley production, at 6.8 million bushels, was 249,000 bushels below 1998. The average price of \$1.70 per bushel was down 16 cents. The value of the crop, at \$11.6 million, was down 12 percent. Yield of 82.0 bushels per acre was one bushel below last year. Harvested acres, at 83,000, was 2.4 percent below 1998.

Oat production, at 675,000 bushels, was 7.1 percent above the previous year. Average price of \$1.50 per bushel was 5 cents above 1998. The value of production was up 11 percent to \$1.0 million. Oat yield was 75 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from 1998. Harvested acreage for grain was 9,000 acres, the same as the previous year.

CORN

Corn for grain production at 2.9 million bushels was down 16 percent from the 1998 level. Average price was \$2.35 per bushel, down 10 cents from the previous year. Total value of the crop, at \$6.7 million, was 19 percent below 1998. Corn for grain yield, at 143 bushels, was up 2 bushels from the 1998 level. Harvested acreage for grain was 20,000, down 17 percent from 1998. Total **corn silage** production was 840,000 tons compared with 777,000 tons in 1998. Yield of 21.0 tons per acre was the same as 1998. Harvested acreage of 40,000 was 8.1 percent above the previous year. The value of the crop was \$21.0 million compared with \$20.2 million the previous year. Silage price of \$25 per ton was \$1.00 less than 1998.

HAY

Alfalfa hay production of 2.4 million tons was down slightly from the 1998 level. Yield of 4.40 tons per acre was the same as 1998, and harvested acres, at 540,000 acres, was 5,000 acres less than 1998. **All other hay** yielded 2.3 tons per acre for a production of 368,000 tons, down 3.2 percent from 1998. Harvested acres of 160,000 acres compared with 165,000 acres harvested in 1998. The 1999 **all hay** crop was valued at \$183.0 million, down 10 percent from 1998. The price per ton, at \$70.50, was down \$5.50 from the previous year.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Dry edible bean production for 1999, at 5.3 million pounds, was 77 percent above the 1998 level. Growers harvested 6,600 acres compared with 5,900 acres during 1998. Yields averaged 800 pounds per acre. Value of production at \$991,000 compared with \$525,000 in 1998. Price per hundredweight (cwt) was \$18.70, up \$1.20 from 1998.